President's Update from David Brettle

I am very excited with the way our annual members’ conference MPEC is shaping up this year. I’m particularly looking forward to chairing the debate on day one, which is called ‘Access to healthcare science careers – keyhole or open door?’ and focuses on widening access to the profession, and helping people who may take non-traditional routes into science. This is a topic close to my heart. I’m delighted that we have Elaine Buckley, Chair of the Health and Care Professions Council, and Robert Farley, professional lead for Healthcare Science at NHS Education for Scotland, as confirmed speakers in this discussion already.

We’re also going to be hosting the first ever members’ Question Time – see below – so please, send your questions in so that we can answer them. Remember, IPEM is YOUR professional body, and we want to hear your views and answer your questions.

For the same reason, we want to recognise YOUR achievements, whether you are just starting out in your career, or have made a significant contribution in your field. Please send in your entries, or nominate a deserving colleague, to our revamped prizes and awards scheme, as described below.

How IPEM is working for you

Apply for IPEM prizes, grants and awards

Can you demonstrate how you have raised awareness of medical physics and engineering by, say, giving a talk at a school, or have you benefited patients by designing a bespoke device or producing a patient information leaflet? If you can, then you may be eligible for an IPEM prize or award. Members are invited to apply for Gold Medals, Early Careers Prizes, the Spiers’ Prize for Outreach, and the Roy Ellis Patient Benefit Award. The closing date for applications is 31 May so you need to click here and act fast.

Supporting Healthcare Science Week

We supported close to 20 of your outreach and public awareness events during Healthcare Science Week last month with our outreach equipment, interactive activities, leaflets and posters. This material and support is available year round so please email eva@ipem.ac.uk if you need anything.

MPEC Manchester 2016 News: Members’ Question Time

As part of the Members’ day at this year’s MPEC, we will be hosting the first ever IPEM Question Time session. This is your chance to ask a panel of experts any question you want about your membership organisation. Whether you are interested in training, membership, the strategy of the organisation, or you just want to air your views, then this is your chance.
Whilst unfortunately we can’t get David Dimbleby in to chair, it will be a fun opportunity to engage with key members of IPEM. Questions can be submitted either via twitter (@ipemnews) or email to conferences@ipem.ac.uk by 31 May. We will be choosing the most topical questions which can then be put to the panel. In order to be in with a chance to ask your question directly you do need to be registered for the free Members’ day on Monday 12 September in Manchester.

Make a professional contribution to an IPEM committee
Personal development, acquiring new skills and the chance to network with a wider range of colleagues are just some of the benefits of joining an IPEM committee or group.
There are more than 20 vacancies available from this September and we welcome applicants in the early stages of their career, as well as those with more experience, as your commitment, drive and willingness to contribute are highly valued to help with the development of the Institute in support of its charitable objectives.
And remember, joining a committee or group does not always involve travelling to meetings, as some take place via video-conference, teleconference or on the Web.
The deadline for applications is Monday 16 May. Click here for full details.

Workforce Intelligence Unit (WIU)
With the radiotherapy physics data now analysed, WIU has focussed on the upcoming ultrasound physics and nuclear medicine physics surveys. We hope to collaborate with the British Nuclear Medicine Society and the Society and College of Radiographers to achieve complete coverage of this workforce, which can be hard to categorise. The first aim is to collate a complete list of all locations where nuclear medicine services are delivered.
If you work in nuclear medicine, the WIU would be very grateful if you could check that your service is included, either as a standalone department, or a group on the services structure map on IPEM’s website.
The ultrasound and non-ionising radiation physics workforce survey is in its final stages of checking. To comment or register your interest in providing workforce data, please contact Jemimah in the WIU.

Our amazing members
Six years ago Emma Walker could barely jog, never mind run. Fast forward to today and Emma is now training hard as she prepares to enter her second Triathlon World Championships in Mexico this September.

Emma, an Associate Member of IPEM based at the Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester, will undertake the gruelling challenge of swimming, cycling and running against some of the best triathletes in the world. “I wasn’t sporty at all at school and if you told my PE teachers what I’m doing now they wouldn’t believe you!” said Emma.

After standing on a treadmill for the first time at the end of 2010, she...
entered the Dublin City Super Sprint Triathlon on a whim in 2011 and she hasn’t looked back since.

We wish Emma the best of luck for the championships.

For more information, see www.ipem.ac.uk or telephone 01904 610821 or email office@ipem.ac.uk